

What is the WVCC?

In April 2013, the VA launched its new Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC). WVCC receives and responds to questions from women Veterans, their families, and caregivers across the nation about available VA services and resources.

The phone number for the WVCC is 1-855-VA-WOMEN or 1-855-829-6636.

Services and Hours of Operation

The WVCC is staffed by knowledgeable VA employees who provide information about benefits, eligibility and services, including health care services for women Veterans. Women Veteran callers are linked to information about claims, education, and health care, as well as information about VA cemeteries and survivors' benefits. The Call Center staff is trained to answer questions and provide referrals to the appropriate people to answer the women's questions. If there is an urgent matter, the Women Veteran Call Center has agreements with the homeless call center and crisis line.

The WVCC operates Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 10:00pm EST and on Saturday from 8:00am to 6:30pm EST.

New and Acting WVPs and VISN Leads

New and Acting WVPs and VISN Leads should ensure the information in the WVP directory and VISN Lead directories is correct. The WVCC uses these directories to ensure women Veterans get connected with their local WVP.

The WVCC Business Card is at the Depot P96635 IB 10-592 and located in the Call Center document library.



1-855-VA-WOMEN
(1-855-829-6636)
Women Veterans Call Center

*Make **One Call***
Get the Information You Need

Hours of Operation
Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 10:00 pm ET
Saturday: 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET



You served, you deserve the best care anywhere



Learn more at www.womenshealth.va.gov

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

P96635 IB 10-592 January 2014

The Providence VA Medical Center is excited to welcome **Lauren Schlanger, MD** to join the Women's Health team as a Primary Care provider , as well as a Clinician Educator. Dr. Schlanger received her undergraduate degree in Nutritional Sciences from Cornell University and her doctoral degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY. She completed her residency in General Internal Medicine with a focus in Women's Health at Rhode Island Hospital, affiliated with Brown University, and is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Schlanger's interests include the creative arts, travel and global health, as well as the Mind Body connection in medicine and health. She is fluent in Spanish and has volunteered in health care in Nicaragua, India, Kenya, and Bhutan. She will be training at the Benson-Henry Institute of Mind Body Medicine of Massachusetts General Hospital in anticipation of implementing Mind Body Medicine techniques for women Veterans at the VA.

Again, please also welcome **Kristen Matteson, MD, MPH** to the women's health care team as gynecologist. Dr. Matteson studied at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. During her fellowship training, Dr. Matteson also earned a Masters in Public Health degree through the Brown Program in Public Health. She is the Coordinating Director for the Resident Research Curriculum and the Women's Health Fellows Workshop in Clinical Research Design at Women & Infants Hospital. Dr. Matteson has been consistently recognized for her outstanding teaching skills, most notably being awarded the CREOG (Counsel on Residency Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology) Excellence in Teaching Award (National Recognition Award) in 2009. Dr. Matteson has been awarded outstanding teacher of the year awards since 2006 and was given the "Mentorship Award" from the Graduating Chief Residents in 2012.

Numbers to Know

Eligibility & Enrollments:

401-457-3300

OEF/OIF Program Manager:

401-273-7100 ext. 6137

Veterans CRISIS Line

1-800-273- TALK (8255)

Telephone Assistant Program (TAP) Line

401-457-3336

1-866-590-2976

Homeless Resources

401-273-7100, ext. 3553

Hotline for Homeless Veterans

1-877-424-3838

State of Rhode Island Department of Human Services Division of Veterans Affairs

401-254-8495

Human services and helping agencies

2-1-1

MyHealthVet: Kathy Foresti

401-273-7100 ext. 2128

Department of Veterans Affairs

Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
Phone: 401-273-7100

Hyannis CBOC

VA Primary Care Center
233 Stevens Street
Hyannis, MA 02601-3190
Phone : 508-771-3190

Middletown CBOC

One Corporate Place
Middletown, RI 02842

New Bedford CBOC

175 Elm Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Phone: 508-994-5489

VET CENTERS

Warwick: 401-739-0167
New Bedford: 508-999-6920
Hyannis: 508-778-0124



Department of Veterans Affairs	VHA HANDBOOK 1330.03
Veterans Health Administration	Transmittal Sheet
Washington, DC 20420	October 5, 2012

MATERNITY HEALTH CARE AND COORDINATION

Veterans are the fastest growing group of new users of VA health services, medical facilities are more likely to include pregnant Veterans among their patient populations. In Fiscal Year 2011 alone, over 90 percent of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn women Veterans were of childbearing age; thus, a significant potential for these Veterans to require maternity care exists.

Maternity care is typically provided by non-VA providers in non-VA facilities, which are accredited to provide care to pregnant women and newborns. Women Veterans, however, continue to receive care through the VA health care system during their pregnancies, either for management of coexisting medical or mental health conditions or for acquiring laboratory tests or medications during their pregnancy. Coordination of care and information sharing between all providers, including non-VA and VA providers is critical to patient safety.

Please refer to VHA Handbook 133.03 for specifics addressing maternity health care

Some items of interest may be:

Maternity related items which are covered by the Veterans Administration

NOTE: Maternity belt, breast pumps and nursing bras may be obtained through a Prosthetics Consult at least 2 weeks in advance of the Veteran's estimated date of delivery. Related supplies, such as breast pads and nipple cream, may be obtained through the VA Pharmacy.

When a pregnant Veteran experiences a medical emergency while outside VA

VA may provide newborn health care services, for up to but not more than, date of birth and 7 calendar days after the birth of the child, all post-delivery care services, including routine health care services that a newborn child requires, if the woman Veteran delivered the child in a VA facility or in another facility pursuant to a VA contract relating to such delivery.



VISN 1 VA Medical Center Maternity Care Coordinator

Judy Kuzdeba, RN, BSN, CDE

VISN 1 Maternity Care Coordinator, VACWM

421 N. Main Street

Leeds, MA 01053

Office: 413-584-4040 ext. 2014

BlackBerry: 413-265-1300

Judith.Kuzdeba@va.gov



New England Premiere!

GROUNDED by George Brant, directed by Judith Swift (Sep 4-28, 2014)

The personal and the political are indistinguishable in American playwright George Brant's gripping one-woman play about a hot-rod fighter pilot whose unexpected pregnancy ends her career in the sky. Reassigned to fly remote-controlled drones in Afghanistan from a windowless, air-conditioned trailer near Vegas, "The Pilot" hunts terrorists by day and goes home to her family at night. But what happens when the boundaries blur between the desert in which she lives and the one she patrols? Suspenseful and searing, beautiful and blistering, Brant's multi-award-winning new play explodes our assumptions about modern warfare and unapologetically tells a story of our times.

"Five Stars. Outstanding." – *London Evening Standard*

"A rare and precious experience: theatre that is both soul searing and core shaking." – *New York Theatre Review*

"Critic's Pick. A scorching sharp-eyed, timely script...lets no one off easy...clap all you want at the end of the play—and you'll want to clap a lot—but the game stays with you" – [Time Out New York](#)

A Top 10 Play of 2013 – *The Guardian*

Group discounts are available and you can read about them here:

<http://www.gammtheatre.org/defaultpermissions/sandrafeinsteingammtheatre/tabid/36/default.aspx#!group-tickets/conl>

More importantly, we participate in the **Blue Star** program through which military personnel can get tickets at half price. Here is that info:

<http://www.gammtheatre.org/defaultpermissions/sandrafeinsteingammtheatre/tabid/36/default.aspx#!blue-star-theatres/>

Influenza Vaccination is always available in Primary Care and Specialty Clinics during clinic hours. There are also flu clinics (excluding holidays) at the following location and times:

PVAMC in the main lobby near check-in. Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Sept 17 until Dec 19

New this year! Drive Thru on Armed Forces Blvd - Sept 23, Oct 22, and Jan 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Please confirm with CBOCS start date—scheduled for Sept 22
Middletown CBOC walk-in every Thursday 7:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

New Bedford CBOC walk-in every Wednesday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Hyannis CBOC walk-in everyday 7:30 a.m – 3:30 p.m.

If you have received a flu vaccine from a provider or pharmacy outside of the VA please call the flu line 401-457-1499 and provide the information for your medical record to be updated.

Please wear clothing that allows easy access to upper arms if you are planning to utilize the lobby or drive thru clinics.

VA RETAIL IMMUNIZATION CARE COORDINATION PROGRAM

MORE OPTIONS, EASIER ACCESS, SEAMLESS RECORDS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is partnering with Walgreens to offer greater choices of time and location for enrolled Veteran patients to get their seasonal flu shot.

JUST THE FACTS:

- Enrolled Veterans can get their seasonal flu shot at any VA health care facility or Walgreens¹ that administers them.
- To get a seasonal flu shot at Walgreens, enrolled Veterans need only tell the pharmacist that they receive care at a VA medical facility, and show their VA ID card.
- After Walgreens administers the vaccine, the immunization record is transmitted to the patient's VA health record — securely, and within the established requirements of the eHealth Exchange.²
- Important information, including the type of immunization, the date and the administering provider, will be part of the Veteran's VA electronic health record (EHR).
- Walgreens accepts most insurance plans, including Medicare. However, there may be a cost to a VA patient for the flu shot.



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To find your closest Walgreens location, go to Walgreens.com/findastore.
To learn more, go to www.publichealth.va.gov/vaccines.asp.

¹Vaccine subject to availability. State-, age- and health-related restrictions may apply.

²If your local pharmacy is not participating in the VA Retail Immunization Care Coordination Program, it may participate in the future as the program expands. References to Walgreens or other non-VA pharmacies do not constitute or imply VA endorsement of these companies, their services, or products.